

## State Department

## CALL FOR STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention of the Socialist Party of Montana is hereby called to meet in Helena August 22nd 1906 at 2 p. m., for the purpose of nominating a candidate for congress and associate justice and the transaction of such other business as may come before the convention.

The representation will be as follows: One Delegate from each Local and one additional Delegate for every ten members in good standing in month of July.

T. J. ROONEY, Chairman.  
JAS. D. GRAHAM, Secretary.

Erza Olson, of Kendall, writes asking for more speakers.

Comrade Brunner of Ovando sends in 75 cents for dues.

Comrade Pennicott, of Livingston, sends in two subs for the News.

W. E. Craggs sends in a check for five subs and says "Everything looks good for the party in this county for Socialism."

Mrs. Margaret Palsgrove sends in \$6 for due stamps. She informs us the Great Falls subscribers are having considerable trouble getting their papers.

Comrade Rector sends \$10 for organization work, \$1 for press fund and \$2.50 for literature for George Dutch. Comrade Dutch is enquiring for papers and literature in Hungarian and Slavonian.

Comrade Hiram Platt of Local Comorers ten subs from now until election, which he is going to put in a box on the road with a sign for the travelers, "Take One." We commend this as an excellent idea and worthy of imitation.

Comrade H. Lloyd, of Pony, sends in a sub and relates the following:

"About ten days ago I shipped 2,075 pounds of ore to the Helena sampling works. I weighed my ore at the depot and it weighed just 2,075 pounds. They re-weighed it at the works at Helena and charged me \$2.50 for reweighing my ore. How is this? Yours for honesty."

Comrade E. G. Miller, of Havre, writes saying that they will make an effort at that point to get Mrs. Lena Morrow Lewis into Chinook. He informs us that an effort is now being made to get up a county ticket, and that they are corresponding with the Socialists of the county with the view of having a county convention soon.

From far off Manatee, Florida, comes a subscription and a letter from E. D. Barker.

Comrade Barker lived in Montana during the regime of Marcus Daly when he was a staunch Democrat. He says: "I am now a Socialist and my only desire is to live long enough to see a Socialist occupying the presidential chair."

We just heard an interesting incident connected with one of Ben Wilson's meetings in Gilt Edge. There was a show in town that night and Ben took his place near the Opera house before show time and opened up with all his Socialist guns. Show time came and the people gathered in a great crowd, but not for the show. Ben proved a bigger entertainment than a whole minstrel show and soon had all the show people listening until he got through.

Comrade Joe Friell, of Chestnut, writes

## Mrs. Hazlett's Report.

Friday, July 27.—I went from Mullan to Wallace, Idaho. At Wallace there is a good bunch of comrades. Comrade Stache is secretary of the local, and county treasurer of the party, and his barber shop is the revolutionary center in Wallace. He is ably assisted by Comrade Piper, the other man in the shop, who extended me the hospitality of his home. A crowd of five or six hundred people were gathered on the street in evening. I had been talking half an hour when all the lights were cut off, and the city remained in darkness till after I got through, when the lights were turned on. One of the comrades stated that he saw Sheriff Sutherland speak to the mayor, and then step into the hotel and telephone, when the lights immediately went out. I was due to speak next night at Burke, but of course we were in no mood to be crushed by darkness in that way, so I postponed the Burke meeting one night. Saturday night Wallace is filled with miners from the surrounding camps, and I was anxious to see whether they would leave the town and their trade in darkness in order to shut out a socialist speaker. Everything was peacefully though, the lights shone undisturbed, an immense crowd was in attendance, and socialism had its innings in the Coeur d'Alene once more. Wallace collections, \$2, subs sold 13, books \$6.75.

Sunday night the meeting was held at Burke. Secretary Hutchinson of the miners' union there had the matter in charge. This is the union that Vincent St. John is president of. He and Hutchinson, through earnest and persistent work, have succeeded in making it one of the most aggressive organizations in the northwest. It disseminates socialist teaching and stands pat on the proposition, and the vote shows that these western union men are not socialists with their tongues merely. The official election returns stood second in per cent of its socialist vote in the United States, Cook County, Illinois, (Chicago) standing first.

We had a fine meeting in the union hall, collections, \$21.55. The comrades entertained me like a princess, and it is like a long-drawn breath of freedom to know that liberty is not yet dead in the hearts of the workers of the Coeur d'Alene. The next point was Lane, a country point in the midst of a farming and logging community. Here word had not been received in time, no advertising had been done, and the meeting was practically a failure. Comrade Reed, a ranchman, did what he could, right in the midst of his harvest, and Comrade Slizer, a merchant of the place, did what he could; but the general attitude towards the socialists is one of distrust and animosity, and we need to do vigorous work there. Comrade Reed says they need ten days at least to advertise through the country among the farmers and the logging camps.

Wardner was the next point. No socialist has spoken here since the dreadful days of the strike, and since the system of peonage has been established among the miners. It is the banner scab town of the northwest. Simpkins, the last secretary of the union, is branded and advertised like a felon, and a price set on his head. His description hangs in the post-office. Think of that, working men, you who think you run the government. The comrades feared for my safety in going into this place, and a conference took place as to whether armed men should go with me, prepared for emergencies. I told them we would stand upon constitutional right, and make a test of the case if necessary.

Comrade Hutchinson came over from Burke though. The proprietors of the Hotel Spokane, where I stopped, showed me every possible courtesy. When evening came I mounted my chair in front of the hotel and stated to the crowd that soon gathered around me, that I was there to speak in behalf of one of the three parties that had tickets in the field for the fall elections. I had hardly got started till a deafening din came up the street proceeding from a platoon of boys armed with big horns. I called upon the marshal to protect the meeting as it was held under right guaranteed by the state law. I was told that he said he would not interfere, but would let the boys go on. A groveling cur named Johnson, who keeps a cigar store, and a side liner for the underworld, a Spanish war veteran, one Ford, long since lost to all sense of what constitutes a man, were the instigators of the disturbance. Johnson furnished the horns and Ford was caught red-handed paying the boys. The plan was, as we afterwards learned, to march down on each side of me, and jerk the chair from under me. But I had friends in the crowd who were awaiting developments, and this time it was the democrats. Several prominent ones went to Decker, the chicken-hearted marshal, and told him order and decency had to be preserved or they would preserve it themselves. So this minion of "law and order" told the boys to "cut it out." A band played its most strenuous from that on. We learned that this band practised twice a week, and this was an off night, but many insisted that that interruption was not planned. It might not have been. Socialists are too used to talk against brass

## Wilson's Report.

Closed a successful tour in and around Dietz, Wyo., where for a week I had good crowds, all of whom were deeply interested in the meeting.

I arrived at Red Lodge Friday July 27. The meeting was announced for the street but brief and little advertising prevented many from knowing about the meeting, besides several of the local workers had an engagement out of town that night—these together with other circumstances were quite against the success of the meeting. However, a fairly good crowd assembled and deep interest was manifested. We have several good comrades in the Red Lodge movement who are actively at work, but at present the atmosphere of the town is quite depressed because of the recent sad catastrophe in the mine, where several of capitalism's slaves lost their lives in their master's mine, and many were seriously wounded and maimed possibly for life. This is but a little addition to the record of crime and murder of the devil of capitalism.

Saturday night I spoke at Roberts. A good crowd of interested people were present and Sunday night I returned to Red Lodge where we had a second street meeting. This meeting was quite largely attended and deep interest was shown. Many of those who listened were Pines—probably all of whom are good loyal comrades. Their loyalty and incessant agitation together with their united stand at the ballot box are such that many of the "natives" of free (!) America might well take a lesson from them.

Monday night I had an excellent meeting at the Valley school house, six miles below Red Lodge. Comrades Northy and Maryott advertised the meeting well amongst the farmers who, although they were very busy haying, attended the meeting and filled the school house. It would be easy to effect a new organization there later.

Tuesday I returned to Billings and had another good street meeting. The citizens' alliance is proving an added stimulus to our movement in Billings. If the alliance continues in its good work you need not send many more speakers there as all Billings practically will be members in good standing in the socialist party. Listen and you will hear something drop in Billings election day.

I arrived here last night. Comrade Mabie met me at the train. We drove to his ranch—Oasis Ranch—and by the way it is well named. If we had more of such places to lead the socialist agitator to occasionally, the life and spirits of many a weary speaker would be greatly renewed. Mabie is a host in himself.

Our meeting at Friday last night did no harm. We organized a local of twelve members. So here's one more link in the chain for the co-operative commonwealth.

I am leaving now for Aldridge. Will return to Livingston tomorrow.

Comrade Jesse Selby writes from Great Falls to the effect that they will take Comrade McGrady at Luther's hall, Sunday, August 12th, at 8 p. m., and orders more literature for the local meetings at Union hall, Sunday evenings.

## Latimer's Report.

This has been a strenuous week. There was no meeting advertised at Bozeman. No Socialists to be found and no workmen in sight. In the average town a person can find some that will admit that they are workmen, but with Bozeman, it is different; there are tonsorial artists, constructional architects, operators of engine establishments, sionals, but no workmen. At 8 p. m. with Comrades Corrigan, Frazier and another Comrade, I went to the principal corner and found a deserted street, as quiet as a cemetery, not a person in sight. Bozeman is like Big Timber; there is nothing to hammer at, no proletariat to work on. At Belgrade I got out some bills and advertised a meeting; had a pretty fair crowd; considerable interest was evinced but no one to go ahead and push the work as Comrade Chelgren is away a good portion of the time and will leave for the Isle of Pines in a month. Sold 85 cents worth of literature.

At Norris and at the Madison river Power Company's dam had meetings of considerable interest. Not many from Norris were present Friday evening as they are out in the hills and on their ranches. Receipts were \$3.45. At Pony I advertised meeting and had an attendance of 150; subs. \$1; literature ten cents. Next evening a large crowd was waiting when I came up town. Betty declared they had voted the old party tickets the last time, but material for a good solid local is scarce. Knudson Berry is prominent in the union and a declared Socialist now. Theo Bullard, blacksmith, is another, together with Comrades Lloyd and Phillips.

Am stranded at Sappington with some 25 other passengers, not knowing when we will get away. Hope to get to Whitehall today. Virginia City, Tuesday; Ruby, Wednesday; Sheridan, Thursday; Twin Bridges, Friday. There is a big dredging crew at Ruby, so will take them in.



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